

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 /068 W
-----140838Z 106159 /12
R 131441Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5034
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8140

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, LY
SUBJECT: SOVIET "MEMORANDUM" ON LIBYA

REF: CAIRO 7800

1. DESPITE -- OR PERHAPS BECAUSE OF -- GOE PUBLIC ASSERTION
THAT RECENT SOVIET "MEMORANDUM" CONTROVERSY HAS BEEN LAID
TO REST, PUZZLEMENT AND SPECULATION ABOUT IT CONTINUE
LOCALLY. THERE ARE CONFLICTING STORIES ABOUT WHAT
ACTUALLY HAPPENED AND WHY.

2. AT VISITING ROMANIAN PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION YESTERDAY
AFTERNOON, I HAD A CHANCE TO ASK SOVIET AMBASSADOR
POLYAKOV ABOUT THE AHRAH STORY (REFTEL). POLYAKOV
DENIES THAT HE WITHDREW, TORE OFF OR AGREED NOT TO GIVE
FAHMY ANY SOVIET MEMORANDUM. HE INSISTS THAT SOLE MESSAGE
WHICH HE CONVEYED ON APRIL 29 WAS SOVIET DESIRE HAVE BETTER
RELATIONS WITH GOE. HE CLAIMS AHRAH STORY ENTIRELY
FABRICATED BY FAHMY AND COMMENTED RUEFULLY ON SADAT'S
MAY 1 PUBLIC ATTACK ON USSR AFTER FAHMY HAD EARLIER
INDICATED INCIDENT CLOSED. ASKED WHY SOVIET MEMORANDUM
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HAD INITIALLY BEEN GIVEN TO CERTAIN ARAB GOVTS, POLYAKOV
SAID WITH STRAIGHT FACE THAT USSR DID SO BECAUSE OF ITS
CONCERN FOR PEACE IN THE AREA. AN EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN
CONFLICT COULD SPREAD AND WOULD IN ANY CASE BE AGAINST
ARAB INTERESTS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED SOVIET ESTIMATE WAS
THAT EGYPTIANS WOULD NOT ATTACK LIBYA, BUT INSISTED
SOVIET MEMORANDUM WAS JUSTIFIED.

3. SEPARATELY, EAST GERMAN AND BULGARIAN AMBASSADORS TOLD ME THEY UNDERSTOOD POLYAKOV HAD DELIVERED SOVIET MEMORANDUM TO FAHMY AND ALSO CLAIMED AHRAM STORY A FABRICATION. ASKED WHY SOVIETS HAD SENT MEMORANDUM TO ARAB COUNTRIES, EAST GERMAN TOOK THE POSITION THAT USSR, AS A SUPER-POWER, MUST MAKE KNOWN ITS VIEWS ON AREA CONTROVERSIES WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO HOSTILITIES. IN SOME PLACES, SOVIET AMBASSADORS HAD GIVEN "MEMORANDUM" AND IN OTHERS THEY HAD SIMPLY MADE DEMARCHE ORALLY. BOTH EAST GERMAN AND BULGARIAN AMBASSADORS VIEWED AHRAM STORY AS FAHMY EFFORT TO SAVE FACE.

4. LATER IN THE EVENING I MET WITH FAHMY, WHO CHEERFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED BEING SOURCE OF AHRAM STORY AND INSISTED IT WAS FACTUALLY CORRECT. POLYAKOV HAD TRIED TO READ HIM MEMORANDUM BEFORE GIVING IT TO HIM. HE, FAHMY, HAD TOLD HIM TO STOP; GOE WOULD NOT HEAR ANY SUCH MESSAGE. SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD THEREUPON TORN OFF OR SEPARATED OFFENDING SECTION OF HIS MESSAGE AND TAKEN IT BACK. WHEN I MENTIONED EASTERN BLOCK DIPLOMATS' COMMENTS ON THIS MATTER, FAHMY SAID HE WOULD SHOW ME THE SOVIET MEMORANDUM AND WHERE POLYAKOV HAD TORN IT OFF. SOLE DOCUMENT POLYAKOV HAD GIVEN HIM AND HE HAD ACCEPTED EXPRESSED SOVIETS DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS AND SPOKE OF SUCCESS FAHMY/GROMYKO MEETING IN SOFIA.

5. SEPARATELY, ONE OF FAHMY'S AIDES TOLD EMBOFF THAT FINAL ACT IN DEMARCHE DRAMA HAD BEEN AN ORAL PRESENTATION CONFIDENTIAL

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BY POLYAKOV TO FAHMY ASKING FOR BETTER RELATIONS. FAHMY'S AID CLAIMED THAT POLYAKOV NEITHER WITHDREW DEMARCHE NOR APOLOGIZED. BY MUTUAL CONSENT, HOWEVER, GOE CONSIDERS INCIDENT CLOSED--AT LEAST FOR NOW.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770170-0795
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770563/aaaacbx.tel
Line Count: 104
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, LY, (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
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